(b) whether a draft notification viz the Andhra Pradesh Insecticides (Quality Control) Order, 1988 was forwarded to Central Government by State Government of Andhra Pradesh on 28th April, 1988 for obtaining concurrance of Government for the issue of the said order and the matter is still pending with Government: and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The Government has been receiving reports of the appearance of substandard goods in the market place from time to time In a large country with dispersed manufacture and where consumer's purchasing power and awareness is slowly building up, this affects production growth. It is difficult to make a precise assessment of the volume of such sub-standard products appearing at the Market place.

(b) The Andhra Pradesh Government had sought concurrence of the Central Government to issue an exclusive order, namely, the Andhra Pradesh Insecticides (Quality Control) order, 1988 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act., 1955. Since the matters, envisaged to be regulated by the proposed special order of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, are adequately covered under the Insecticides Act, 1968, the State Government has been advised that the issuance of the said order would not serve such purpose.

(c) All Government agencies involved in the upgradation of quality of products and enforcing quality standards have been taking steps to combat this problem. The more important steps taken relate to:—

(i) Bringing under compulsory Certification Scheme products affecting safety and health of consumers;

(ii) Promoting voluntary certification and self-certification measures and creating quality culture in industry;

(iii) Taking legal action against erring manufacturers and traders who contravene provisions of legislations like Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, Essential Commodities Act, different Quality Control Orders, Drugs & Cocmetics Act, etc; and

(iv) Promoting a responsive and responsible consumer movement through provisions of Consumers Protection Act and redressal machinery laid down under this Act.

Sugar mills in cooperative sector in Kerala

2667. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills in the co-operative Sector in Kerala;

(b) the number of cooperative sugar mills in the State running in loss; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) There are two sugar mills in the cooperative sector in Kerala.

(b) and (c) The Government do not maintain profit and loss accounts in respect of sugar mills. The sugar policy is announced by the Government of India from time to time. The profitability or otherwise of a sugar factory depends on a variety of factors which include cane availability, technical and managerial competence of a sugar mill and certain other factors which are not directly regulated by the sugar policy. The ultimate responsibility to ensure efficient running of a sugar mill lies solely with the management.

Grants to Kerala for sulm development

2668. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any grant has been given to the States for slum clearance in